

A M E R I C A N  
JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

A N D

Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies.

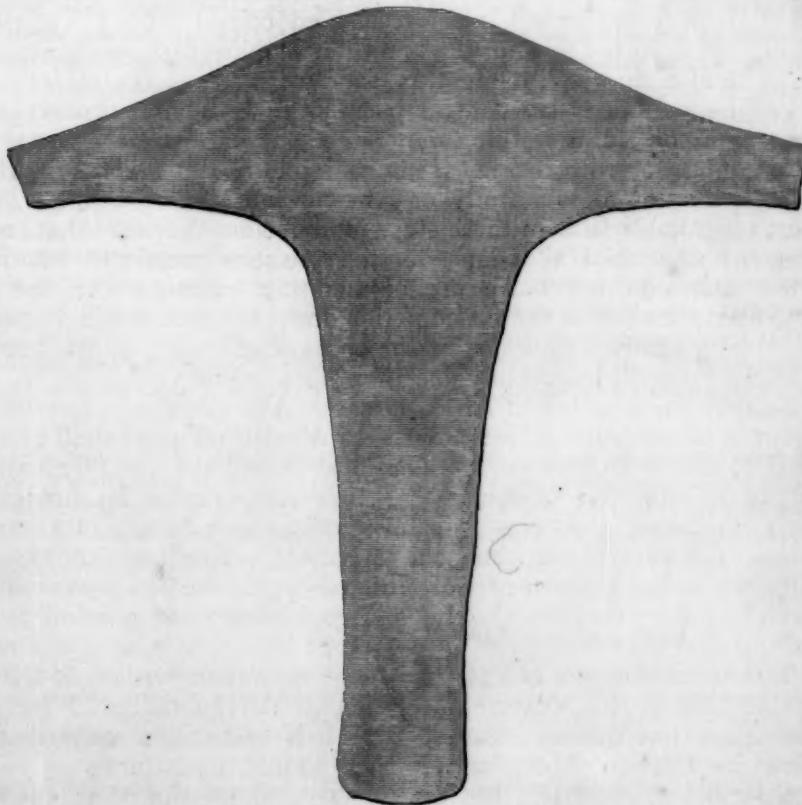
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VOL. V.

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1870.

No. 2.

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THE EARLIEST AMERICAN COIN.

A PIECE of metal, of the exact shape and size of this wood-cut, was shown by Mr. Henry Davenport to the Boston Numismatic Society at the meeting held 5th May, 1860, and a letter was read describing it as a coin of the Aztecs of Mexico. It was referred for consideration to the Secretary,

who read the following paper concerning it at the meeting held two months later, 6th July.

"In accordance with the wish of the Society, I have endeavored to find some account of the strange piece of workmanship referred to my notice. But I regret to say that I have met with almost nothing relating to it. I have brought together some of the passages which I have found, where anything like it is mentioned, and will take a few minutes to read them.

"Prescott says, in his 'History of the Conquest of Mexico,' 'The traffic was carried on partly by barter, and partly by means of a regulated currency, of different values. This consisted of transparent quills of gold dust; of bits of tin, cut in the form of a T; and of bags of cacao, containing a specified number of grains.' The 'History of Mexico,' by Charles Cullen, is slightly more elaborate and particular. He enumerates five different kinds of money, or rather articles used as currency. After describing three, he says, 'The fourth kind of money, which most resembled coined money, was made of pieces of copper in the form of a T, and was employed in purchases of little value. The fifth, of which mention is made by Cortes in his last letter to the Emperor Charles V., consisted of thin pieces of tin.' There are other passages like these, but containing nothing more.

"In connection with these, it is interesting to read the words of Akerman in his 'Introduction to the Study of Ancient and Modern Coins.' 'One of the most remarkable facts in the history of the New World is that, notwithstanding the proverbial abundance of the precious metals in Mexico and Peru, the natives did not make use of them for currency. In the former country, from the time of the Aztec nation down to the race which succeeded, the circulating medium consisted of the cocoa seed only.' This latter statement would certainly be 'remarkable,' if a 'fact.'

"Farther on, speaking of Africa, he says, 'A very singular form of money is current in Kordofan and Dar Four. It consists of pieces of iron, called Hashhash, somewhat resembling the semi-circular knife used by leather-cutters, or, as the edges are irregular, the cross section of a mushroom. The prototype in earlier times was probably an iron arrow-head, however much the present form may differ from such an object.' Kordofan and Dar Four are countries in the Eastern part of Africa, lying to the South-west of Egypt, with which country they are closely connected in race and religion, as well as by trade.

"I have no intention of entering here upon the question of the origin and connection of the Mexican race, though the quotations I have made readily suggest one theory. \* \* \* \* It is certainly strange that places so distant as Eastern Africa and Mexico should have forms of money so much alike and so peculiar. But the similarity of form of coinage is no very strong proof of connection, especially when the similarity is as doubtful as this, and the coins are of different metals. \* \* \* \*

"Akerman's statements about the currency of non-European nations must often be taken 'cum grano salis,' and a pretty large grain too. We have already caught him tripping with respect to the money of the Mexicans, and his account of the African money is entirely at variance with that of another authority. Lippincott's 'Gazetteer of the World' says that 'the

commerce' of Dar Four 'is wholly conducted by barter.' Who shall decide, when doctors disagree?

"I offer this to the Society with reluctance, and assure you that no one can be more conscious than I am, of the imperfections of the first essay read before it."

A similar piece, and the only other I ever heard of, is in the collection of coins attached to the Bibliothéque Impériale at Paris, where I saw it in 1866. There may be more, but I do not know their whereabouts, or even their existence.

W. S. APPLETON.

### ORIGIN OF E PLURIBUS UNUM.

BY SAMUEL A. GREEN, M. D., BOSTON.

MANY attempts have been made at different times to trace the origin of our national motto. The only instance perhaps to be found in the classics, where the idea is similar to that expressed in the motto, is in Virgil's *Moretum*, line 103,

*"Color est e pluribus unus."*

The motto of *The Spectator*, for August 20th, 1711, (No. 148) is

*"Exempta juvat spinis e pluribus una, Hor. 2, Ep. ii, 212,"*

though I am unable to find this version. In every edition of Horace, to which I have access, it is *de pluribus una*; but whichever it is, it means one selected from many, and not one made up of many. One of the mottoes, which were kept on the title-page of *The Gentleman's Magazine* for more than a hundred years, was *E Pluribus Unum*; and this motto was probably familiar to those who adopted it for the national seal. According to a paper in the *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1866-1867, page 351, it was first suggested by Mr. W. Barton, of Philadelphia, in 1782.

The legend of the New York "doubloon," as well as of one of the New York coppers, struck in 1787, is *unum e pluribus*, and of the "Immunis Columbia" copper, struck the same year, it is *e pluribus unum*. On the New Jersey copper of 1786, and the Kentucky copper of 1791, the legend is *e pluribus unum*, and on one of the varieties of the Washington cent of 1791, *unum e pluribus* is seen in the scroll on the reverse.

The motto appears for the first time on the national coinage in 1796, on the quarter-eagle, and in the following year on the eagle and the dime. In 1798, it is on the silver dollar.

From the *Historical Magazine*, for December, 1868, though not published until August, 1870.

The statement is made in the Boston Transcript of October 26, 1867, that *E Pluribus Unum* was used as a motto by an English magazine, in 1690.

### ROMAN COINS.

AN old Roman had his purse full of the same pieces that we now preserve in Cabinets. As soon as an Emperor had done anything remarkable, it was immediately stamped on a Coin, and became current through his whole Dominions. It was a pretty contrivance, says *Cynthio*, to spread abroad the virtues of an Emperor, and make his actions circulate. A fresh coin was a kind of a *Gazette*, that published the latest news of the Empire.—ADDISON, in his *Dialogues upon the Usefulness of Ancient Medals*.

A SELECTION OF COINS FROM THE CABINET OF  
W. S. APPLETON.

(Continued from page 22.)

XXXIV. Obv. DUX ALBERTUS; the lily of Florence. Rev. S. IOHANNES. B.; St. John the Baptist standing full-faced, with a cross in his left hand; near his head is a small shield. Gold, size 12. This is the regular type of the gold coinage of Florence, which was known and accepted in all countries by the name *florin*; many of the coins have the name of the city in place of that of the ruler; this one is perhaps of about the year 1400.

XXXV. Obv. GOVERNO DELLA TOSCANA; in exergue, L. GORI; a lion walking to the left, bearing the tricolor of Italy; below a small shield. Rev. QUATTRINI CENTO. 1859. FIORINO. The lily of Florence. Silver, size 15. This coin ends the numismatic history of Florence, being one of those struck by the provisional government, after the flight of the Grand-duke of Tuscany, and before the annexation of his dominions to the kingdom of Italy.

XXXVI. Obv. S M VENETI. PE. GRADONICO DUX; at the left St. Mark standing, and at the right the Doge kneeling before him; between them, supported by both, is a staff with a small pennon. Rev. SIT. T. XRE. DAT. Q. TU. REGIS. ISTE. DUCAT; the figure of Christ in glory, with a nimbus round the head, holding a book in his left hand; round him nine stars. Gold, size 12½.

XXXVII. Obv. S. M. VENET. LUDOV. MANIN DUX; St. Mark and the kneeling Doge, supporting between them a cross. Rev. SIT. T. XRE. DAT. Q TU REGIS. ISTE DUCA; Christ in glory, surrounded by sixteen stars. Gold, size 13. This and the preceding are gold ducats or sequins of Venice. They illustrate the fact stated, under number II, a coin of Athens. The former, of Pietro Gradenigo, Doge of Venice, was struck about 1300, and the latter, similar in design, and quite as rude in execution, was struck under Ludovico Manin, the last Doge, just before 1797. The Venetian sequin was so universally recognized and received as a standard of value, that the archaic type was always retained, and similar pieces were even coined by Francis II, Emperor of Germany, when Venice finally came under his rule. I have one of these also.

XXXVIII. Obv. L'ITALIE DELIVREE A MARENGO; a helmed and laureate female head, facing the left; below the bust A. L. Rev. LIBERTE, EGALITE. ERIDANIA; an olive-wreath, within which 20 FRANCS, L'AN 10. Gold, size 14. This beautiful coin is one of the few modern ones, which have also been made to serve as historical medals by design or inscription. It is in every respect worthy of admiration.

XXXIX. Obv. ITALIA LIBERA DIO LO VUOLE; in exergue, M; a female figure in classic dress, crowned with a tower, standing holding a spear in her right hand, and with her left pointing to the word DIO; above her head is a star. Rev. GOVERNO PROVVISORIO DI LOMBARDIA 1848; a wreath of olive and oak, within which 40 LIRE ITALIANE. Gold, size 16½. This is one of the series of coins issued in 1848 by the provisional republican government of

Lombardy. It represents an unsuccessful revolution, but if beauty of coinage be any claim to success, no rebels ever better deserved victory. The piece is a worthy successor of the ancient coins of Syracuse.

**XL.** Obv. BOAMUNDUS; helmed head of the Prince to the left; before a crescent, behind a star. Rev. ANTIOCHIA; a cross, and in one quarter a crescent. Silver, size 11. I have placed here, as showing the range of numismatics, a coin of one of the Crusaders, Boemund, Prince of Antioch.

**XLI.** Obv. AELFRED REX; a cross within a circle. Rev. ADELVLF. MO; four small crosses. Silver, size 13. This is a coin of Alfred the Great of England, 871-900; it is very plain and simple, but by no means of bad execution; the second letter on the reverse is the Anglo-Saxon TH.

**XLII.** Obv. CNUT RECX; bust of the King to the left, before him a sceptre. Rev. BRIHTMAER O L; a short cross in a circle. Silver, size 11. This is a coin of Canute of Denmark and England 1016-34. The reverse is considered to mean that the piece was struck by Brihtmaer at Lewes. It can hardly be said to present a valuable portrait of the King.

**XLIII.** Obv. EADPEARD REX ANGL; the King on his throne, holding a sceptre in his right hand, and an orb in his left. Rev. HÆRRED ON WILTUNE; a short cross, with a bird in each angle. Silver, size 12½. We have here a coin of Edward the Confessor, King of England 1042-65. It is quite elaborate in design, and by no means discreditable.

**XLIV.** Obv. PILLELM REX; bust of the King full-faced, holding in his right hand a sceptre. Rev. IEGLPINE ON GIP; a cross, and in the angles four rings, containing the letters P A X S. Silver, size 12. This is a coin of William the Conqueror, King of England 1066-87, with an attempt at a portrait, which represents him wearing a fierce moustache. It was struck at Ipswich.

**XLV.** Obv. HENRIC. 8 D. G. AGL. FRA. Z. HIB. REX; crowned head of the King, nearly full-face. Rev. POSUI DEUM ADIUTOREM MEUM; a shield with the arms of England and France quarterly, a cross running through it to the edge. Base silver, size 16. This groat of Henry VIII bears one of the most remarkable of numismatic portraits, closely agreeing with the paintings of the King, and representing his coarse, round face, with full beard, and a large wen near the nose.

**XLVI.** Obv. EDWARD: VI: D: G: AGL: FRA: Z: HIB: REX. V.; the King at half-length, in armor, facing the right, holding in his right hand a sword, and in his left an orb. Rev. IHS: AUTE: TRACI: PER: MEDIU: ILLOR: IBAT. V.; a crowned shield with the arms of England and France quarterly, supported by a lion and a dragon; below, on a scroll, E. R. Gold, size 23. This is a sovereign of Edward VI, and is really a beautiful coin. The King, of course, is a mere boy; the inscription on the reverse was very common on English coins, for many years and reigns.

**XLVII.** Obv. PHILIP. ET. MARIA. D. G. R. ANG. FR. NEAP. PR. HISP; the busts of the King and Queen facing each other, above them a crown and 1554. Rev. POSUIMUS. DEUM. ADIUTOREM. NOSTRUM.; a crowned shield with

the arms of Philip of Spain impaling those of Mary of England; above XII. Silver, size 20. This coin, with the portraits of Philip II of Spain and "Bloody" Mary of England, has become famous as the suggestion of Sam. Butler's well-known couplet,

" Still amorous, and fond, and billing,  
Like Philip and Mary on a shilling."

**XLVIII.** Obv. ELIZABETH. D: G: ANG: FRA: ET. HIB: REGINA; the Queen seated on her throne, full-faced, in royal robes, crowned, holding in her right hand a sceptre, in her left an orb; the throne is elaborately ornamented; below is a portcullis, and at the end of the inscription a shell. Rev. A. DNO: FACTU: EST. ISTUD. ET. EST. MIRAB: IN. OCULIS. NRS; a large double rose, on which is a shield with the arms of England and France; above a shell. Gold, size 27 1-2. This type of sovereign, which continued in use in England during several reigns, from its large size and elegant workmanship is one of the grandest coins ever issued. In consequence of the small scale of the figure, it can not be considered of much value as a portrait.

**XLIX.** Obv. CAROLUS: D: G: MAGN: BRIT: FR: ET: HI: REX; the King at half-length, facing the left, crowned, in armor, holding in his right hand a sword, and in his left an olive-branch; behind his head a fleur-de-lis, as also at the end of the inscription. Rev. EXURGAT: DEUS: ET: DISSIPENTUR INIMICI; on a scroll in the field, RELIG: PROT: LEG: ANGL: LIBER: PAR; above III and three fleurs-de-lis, below 1643. Gold, size 28. This three-pound piece is a specimen of the money coined by King Charles I, out of the proceeds of the plate furnished by the Colleges of Oxford, after the breaking out of hostilities, known as the Great Rebellion. His head closely resembles the portraits by Vandyke. The inscription on the reverse is his last appeal to his people.

**L.** Obv. THE COMMONWEALTH OF ENGLAND; a shield with the cross of St. George, between two branches of laurel and palm. Rev. GOD. WITH. VS. 1653; two shields, one with the cross of St. George, the other with a harp; above XX. Gold, size 21 1-2. This is a sovereign of the Commonwealth, of which the inscription caused Royalists to say that God was on one side, and the Commonwealth on the other.

**LI.** Obv. OLIVAR. D. G. RP. ANG. SCO. ET. HIB. &c. PRO.; laureate head of the Protector facing the left. Rev. PAX. QUÆRITUR. BELLO. 1656; a crowned shield with the crosses of England and Scotland and the harp of Ireland quarterly, and over all an escutcheon of pretense with the family arms of Cromwell. Gold, size 19. This is a beautiful specimen of coinage, besides bearing a remarkable portrait; probably no truer was ever taken. These sovereigns are quite rare, and seem hardly to have been in use as money of England.

**LII.** Obv. MARIA. &. HENRC<sup>3</sup>. DEI. GRA. R. &. R. SCOTORU; a crowned shield with the lion of Scotland; at each side a thistle. Rev. EXURGAT. DEUS. &. DISSIPENT. INIMICL. EL<sup>3</sup>; a crowned palm-tree; on a label before it DAT GLORIA VIRES; in field, 1566; above a thistle. Silver, size 26. This coin with the names, but not the portraits, of Mary Stuart of Scotland and Henry Darnley, was officially called the *Mary Ryall*, but is commonly known

as the Cruickstown dollar, from bearing a representation of a famous yew-tree in the grounds of Cruickstown Castle.

LIII. Obv. IACOBUS. VIII. DEI. GRATIA.; head of the King, facing the right. Rev. SCO. AN. FRA. ET HIB. REX. 1716; four shields with the arms of Scotland, England, France and Ireland, arranged as a cross; in the centre is a thistle, and between the shields are four sceptres. Silver, size 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ . This is a shilling of the Old Pretender, from a die prepared for an issue of money for Scotland; this piece was struck many years afterwards.

LIV. Obv. CARLUS REX FR; a cross in the centre, and at the end of the inscription. Rev. METULLO: in the centre a monogram of K R L S, in a cross; a cross at the end of the inscription. Silver, size 13. This is probably, but not certainly, a coin of Charlemagne, who issued many varieties of money closely resembling it. Reigned 768-814.

LV. Obv. IOHANNES: DEI: GRACIA: FRANCORU: REX; the King in armor on horseback, galloping to the left, holding a sword in his right hand; his armor and the horse are ornamented with fleurs-de-lis. Rev. XPC. REGNAT. XPC. IMPERAT. XPC. VINCIT.; a cross flory, elaborately designed, in an ornamented border in the shape of a quatre-foil. Gold, size 19. This is a *franc d'or*, or *franc à cheval* of John the Good, King of France 1350-64, struck, says Le Blanc, in 1360, on the return of the King from prison in England. The design is beautiful.

(To be continued.)

### ANCIENT ITALIAN RELICS.

THE interesting correspondent of the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, in a late letter, gives an account of a visit to the Etruscan Museum at Rome, in company with Lanciani, the Archæologist and Architect. We extract the following:—

Among the very curious things collected in this little museum, are some bronze hatchets which were found at Terni two years ago, and which belong to the age of bronze, or before Etruscan times. It has been supposed the people had no money in those days, and yet these hatchets are cut and broken into pieces which seem to have been meant for such a purpose. They are of one weight, or exact multiplied weight, not a fraction's difference between them. They are not stamped or worked in any way, are simply broken or cut off, rather rudely, but in exact proportions. It seemed strange to me, when I held these bits of bronze in my hands, to think of them as having been the representatives of wealth, for we are accustomed to regarding gold and silver as the only legitimate form of money. In those far off days, *three thousand years ago*, the peoples who used these clumsy, inconvenient bits of bronze, as a trading medium, could not have possessed that which we consider wealth—the value which skill and labor adds to the raw material,—therefore money was of no possible use to them; they had no riches to measure and circulate. It is all a mystery, and yet here lie these bits of bronze before us, in exact weight, which, when placed together, form little hatchets, and must have been severed for some trading use.

## VALUE OF NUMISMATICS.

WE copy the following extract from the preface to a work recently published in London. It is entitled "A Guide to the Study and Arrangement of English Coins; giving a description of every denomination of every issue in Gold, Silver, and Copper, from the Conquest to the present time, with all the latest discoveries." By Henry William Henfrey, member of the Numismatic Society of London.

"In conclusion, it is hoped that the present volume may aid in spreading the taste for, and the study of, those national monuments, our English Coins, which are, in the words of Swift, 'of undoubted authority, of necessary use and observation, not perishable by time, nor confined to any certain place; properties not to be found in books, statues, pictures, buildings, or any other monuments of illustrious actions.' Pope has the same idea:—

‘Ambition sighed; she found it vain to trust  
The faithless column, and the crumbling bust,  
Huge moles, whose shadow stretched from shore to shore,  
Their ruins perished, and their place no more!  
Convinced, she now contracts her vast design,  
And all her triumphs shrink into a coin.’

"Besides their great and acknowledged value to the student of history, their great beauty of design and workmanship claims our attention. The Rev. Charles Boutell says: 'Not only are many of the coins of past centuries executed with a genuine feeling for art, and more particularly for that expression of art which is appropriate to the works of the numismatist, but in their types and legends they also exhibit truly felicitous conceptions, expressed after the most effective forms.'

## QUERY.

WHAT Society ever made use of this medal, by Furst? Obv. ANDREW JACKSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES A. D. 1829; bust of Jackson in citizen's dress, facing the right; below FUR. Rev. REWARD OF SKILL AND INGENUITY; two long branches of palm and oak tied with a ribbon, and nearly meeting at the top; below the ribbon G. Silver, size 32. I have a beautiful impression bought in Europe, and do not remember to have seen the medal, or any description of it, in New York auction catalogues. I shall be glad to receive any information about it.

W. S. APPLETON.

## LOSS OF VALUE IN GOLD COIN.

Some correspondence has recently been had by the Treasury Department, with parties in New York and Boston, as to the loss of value in gold coins by handling in the course of business. The test in New York, on coin taken at random from that received at the Sub-Treasury, showed twenty-five penny-weights' deficiency on five thousand dollars of half-eagles, quarter-eagles, and gold dollars, and a deficiency something less on larger pieces—but the office says it never rejects any coin however light, if its short weight is evidently due to the natural wear from use in ordinary business. At the Custom House in Boston, the correspondence says, coin is required to come up to a certain standard. There is no law of Congress, nor any regulation of the Treasury Department, with reference to this matter.—*Boston Daily Advertiser, Aug. 4.*

## COINS FOUND ON RICHMOND ISLAND, MAINE.

THE following letter is found in the "Proceedings" of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for 1855-58, pages 183-8, and will explain itself:—

PORTLAND, May 2, 1857.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,

*President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.*

DEAR SIR:—I send you with this a *silver* coin of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and a *gold* coin of the reign of Charles I., a donation to the Massachusetts Historical Society from Dr. John M. Cummings, of this city.

These coins, with others of the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., were found on Richmond Island, May 11, 1855. Richmond Island, now owned by Dr. Cummings, lies off the southern shore of Cape Elizabeth, half a mile distant from the main-land, and nine miles distant from Portland. It contains about two hundred acres, and has been occupied by but a single family for many years.

The first settlement upon it, of which we have any account, was by Walter Bagnall in 1628, who carried on a profitable trade with the Indians, and was killed by them for his extortion, October 3, 1631. Winthrop, in his "Journal," says he accumulated a large property by his traffic.

December 1, 1631, the island, with the southern part of Cape Elizabeth, was granted by the Council of Plymouth, to Robert Trelawny and Moses Goodyear, merchants in Plymouth, England. They appointed John Winter, who then resided on the territory, and was interested in the patent, as their agent. Winter soon after built a ship there, which was probably the first regular trader between the two worlds; established a Colony; and carried on at that place a larger commercial business than was then done upon the New England coast. Lumber, fish, furs, oil, &c., were sent to Europe; and there were received, in return, wines, liquors, guns, ammunition, and such merchandise as was suited to the Indian trade and to sustain the Colony. Several ships were employed in this business. In 1635, a ship of eighty tons, and a pinnace of ten tons, arrived at the island. In 1638, Winter had sixty men employed there in the fisheries; and, the same year, Trelawny sent a ship of three hundred tons, laden with wine and spirits, to the island. Jocelyn, the voyager, speaking of the trade there at that time, says, "The merchant comes in with a walking tavern,—a bark laden with the legitimate blood of the rich grape, which they bring from Phial, Madera, and Canaries."

In 1639, Winter sent home, in the bark "Richmond," six thousand pipe-staves, valued at £8. 6s. a thousand. An Episcopal church was established there, in which Robert Gibson, whom Winthrop calls a *scholar*, officiated from 1637 to 1640, and was the first Episcopal church established in New England. Gibson was succeeded by Rev. Robert Jordan, who married Winter's only daughter, and inherited his estate. He fought long and bravely for Episcopacy; and, at much peril and personal inconvenience, sternly resisted the persevering assaults upon it by the magistracy of Massachusetts.

Trelawny died in 1644, and Winter in 1645. From that period, the Colony, its quickening spirits being gone, declined; and commercial operations on the island were soon after abandoned.

The coins referred to were found in a stone pot of common ware, but of a beautiful shape, resembling a globe lantern. It would probably hold a quart, and was found about a foot below the surface of the earth, on a slope of land descending north-westerly to the shore, and about four rods from it. There were traces of the foundation of buildings near the spot, the remains of a chimney, and a cavity used as a cellar. The particular place had not been ploughed nor cultivated within the memory of the present generation, until the year previous to the discovery. The next year the ploughing was deeper; and as the ploughman was holding his plough, and his son driving, the pot was turned up from its hiding-place. When the boy picked it up, and showed it to his father, he exclaimed, "It is a rum-jug of the old settlers: throw it over the bank." On second thought, he told him to lay it one side on a pile of stones. The pot was apparently filled with caked earth: nothing more could be seen. A younger son of the ploughman, sitting upon the rocks, began to pick the earth from the pot, and soon came to the coin. Their surprise may well be conceived. On examination, the coin appeared to be regularly arranged in the bottom of the pot,—the silver on one side, the gold on the other,—and a fine gold signet-ring in the centre.

On the next day, being notified by Dr. Cummings of the discovery, I went with him, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Davies, and his son Dr. Davies, to the island, and carefully examined the coin, and explored the locality. We found the silver considerably discolored; the gold very little. There were thirty-one pieces of silver, of which twenty-three were shillings, sixpences, and groats, of the reign of Elizabeth; four shilling-pieces and one sixpence of the reign of James I.; and one shilling and one sixpence of the reign of Charles I. The gold consisted of ten sovereigns of the reign of James I., which were generally called *units*, from their being the first issued under the united crowns, and three half-sovereigns of the same reign; seven sovereigns of Charles I.; and one curious and beautiful Scottish coin, half-sovereign size, bearing date 1602,—the last year of James as King of Scotland. All the coins are hammered, and are thinner and broader than modern coins of the same value. Milling was not generally used until the time of Charles II.; although some experiments of it were tried in Elizabeth's reign, but proved too expensive and imperfect for general use. The impressions on the gold coins are clear and distinct; they are less worn than the silver, and nearly as bright as when issued.

Part of the fracture of the pot was fresh, as if occasioned by the recent ploughing; the other was of an earlier date, and made, as is conjectured, by the ploughing of the previous year. It is probable, from appearances and from the absence of pieces, that it was a broken vessel when the coin was put in it. We found, in the vicinity of the place, broken pottery, pipes, an iron spoon of ancient form, part of a large glass bottle, charcoal, nails, spikes, &c., turned up and scattered about by the plough. No further coin, after a careful search, was found.

The question now arises, How came this treasure there? No certain answer can be given. I have no doubt that the deposit is a solitary one, and

can afford no encouragement to the idle rumors which have long prevailed, that large sums of money were, many years ago, concealed by pirates on this and other islands in our bay. The probability is that the deposit was made by some inhabitant of the island, or transient person, for security; and that he suddenly died, or was driven away or killed by the Indians, without disclosing the fact.

My conjecture is that the deposit was made as early as the death of Winter, in 1645; and I go farther, and express the belief that the money is connected with the fate of Walter Bagnall, who was killed by Sagamore Squidraket and his party, October 3, 1631; that it was, in fact, a part of his unjustly earned estate. Bagnall had one companion with him, whom Winthrop calls John P——. Bagnall had acquired a large property,—£400, it is said. Winthrop says he was a wicked fellow, and exasperated the Indians by his hard usage. The latest of the coinage was of the time of the first Charles; and, of the fifty-two pieces, nine only were of his reign, and these must have been coined before the breaking out of the civil war in 1642; for the king's coinage after that event was of different, and, generally, of much coarser execution than that issued before. That the deposit must have had an early date—before the commencement of the civil war—is evident from the fact that there is no piece of a later period than 1642; and there is nothing to show that any of it is of a later date than 1631.

In 1632, the expedition fitted out in Boston and "Piscataqua," to pursue Dixey Bull, a buccaneer,—who had ravaged Pemaquid and plundered vessels,—stopped, on their return, at Richmond Island, and hung Black Will, an Indian, who had been concerned in the murder of Bagnall. My solution is that this coin was concealed by Bagnall's servant, or by some of the Indians, perhaps Black Will, and that it had lain in its concealment until its recent discovery. That the treasure can have no connection with the Indian war of 1675 seems clear from the fact, that the collection contains no coin of a date within *thirty* years of that event.

The silver coin I now transmit to you, is a hammered shilling, without date, and bears the same effigy, title and motto, that were placed on all the silver coin of that reign. They are as follows: On the face is the profile head of the queen, crowned; the rose, an old emblem introduced by the early sovereigns, behind it; around it her title, ELIZABETH. D. G. ANG: FR: ET: HI: REGINA. On some of the coins the title is more abridged. On the reverse are the arms of England, which embrace the emblems of France and Ireland, traversed by the cross, with the motto, POSVI. DEV. ADJVTOREM. MEV.; that is, *Posvi Devm Adjvtorem Mevm*, "I have made God my helper." This motto was first adopted by Edward III., and continued to the time of Charles I. The sixpences, and some of the smaller pieces, were dated for the first time in this reign, but not the shillings nor the gold coin.

The accompanying gold coin is a hammered sovereign, or unit, of the early part of the reign of Charles I. It represents the head of the king, crowned and youthful, with a double ruff around his neck, and a robe over his shoulders. The figures XX. behind his head, denote the value of the coin, which is twenty shillings. His title on the margin is "Carolus D. G. Mag. Brit. Fra. et. Hi. Rex.;" on the reverse, a new motto is introduced, not used by any former sovereign, *Florent Concordia Regna*, "Nations flourish by

peace ; " in the centre are the national arms, quartered, as usual, on a shield, which, in the present case, is garnished ; it is sometimes plain.

I hope these interesting relics of the past, so happily brought forth to instruct and gratify the curiosity of the present age, will be acceptable to your venerable Society ; and that the historical sketch I have added of a noted spot in our early annals, of which your renowned ancestor has given us the first notice, will not be tedious or unwelcome to yourself.

I am the Society's ever faithful friend,

And your obedient servant,

W.M. WILLIS.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COINS.

A STRICT uniformity in the use of a few technical words has not always prevailed among numismatic writers. In order to convey a precise description of a coin, or of a medal, it is necessary that such a uniformity should exist. This statement seems so evident that it should require no effort to prove it. We refer now, however, to one or two expressions which mean different things with different persons. For instance, in the last number of this *Journal*, (p. 8,) the question was raised as to what was meant by the head on a coin turning to the *right* or the *left* ; whether it had reference to the right of the beholder or the right of the person whose head was so represented. Our opinion is that this description has reference to the person looking at the piece, though instances may be quoted where the other opinion prevails. This view seems the simplest, and it is confirmed by the article on Numismatics in the New American Cyclopædia. Let us give another instance. At a recent meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society, the distinction between *type* and *variety* was discussed, and it was found that the members did not by any means agree on the difference between these two words. As the article in the Cyclopædia touches upon these very points and gives the distinction between other terms, we copy the following extract :—

S. A. G.

"A coin is a piece of metal bearing an impressed device, and designed for circulation as money. A medal is a large piece of metal struck with one or more dies, intended to commemorate some event, and not designed for circulation. A medallion is now generally understood to be synonymous with a medal. A medallet is a small medal, usually but not necessarily of inferior workmanship. A token is a small medal, usually but not always of the same size with the current coin of the country in which it is struck, and issued for purposes of private individuals. The obverse of a coin or other piece is that side which bears the portrait or principal design indicating the country, nation, or object for which it was struck. The other side is the reverse. The head or portrait on a piece is said to face to the right or left with reference to the beholder's right or left hand. When the design on a specimen varies in any decided characteristic from one already known, while the general object and purpose is [are?] manifestly the same, this is said to constitute a new type. When the variation is very slight, as in the size of the lettering or the distance between letters, it is classed as a variety. Proofs are coins or medals struck from the original die as it leaves the hands of the die-cutter, and are thus distinguished from specimens struck with dies which have been reproduced by pressure from the original dies. Pattern or mint pieces are coins struck in any mint and proposed for adoption in the coinage of a country, but not adopted in the year of their first manufacture."

## ENGLISH SALES OF AMERICAN COINS, 1817-1844.

FROM a volume of priced catalogues in our collection we extract the following, showing the frequency of rare American coins in English Collections; many of the specimens were unknown to American Collectors at the date of the various sales.

|             | J. C.  |
|-------------|--|
| Caxon's.    |  |
| 1844.       | New England Shilling, Sixpence, and Threepence, . . .  |
| Blick's.    | £ 1 1 0  |
| 1843.       | Kentucky Token, struck in silver with five other pieces, . . .   |
| "           | 0 15 0   |
| Milles.     | Rosa Americana, three. Gun money, . . .  |
| 1843.       | 0 4 0  |
| "           | James II. eleven, . . .  |
| "           | 0 3 0  |
| "           | LIBERTAS AMERICANA, head of Liberty. <i>Rev.</i> France protecting the Infant Hercules from the attack of a lion, <i>fine</i> ; and another, inscribed PRIMA EPOCHA, wreath. <i>Rev.</i> two Globes. . . |
| "           | 0 13 0   |
| "           | New England Shillings, 1652, six; Sixpence, and Threepence, eight pieces, . . .  |
| "           | 0 10 0   |
| "           | Rosa Americana, George I., 4; and twenty other pieces, . . .   |
| 1840.       | 0 16 0   |
| "           | Rosa Americana Halfpenny, two different, and four other pieces, . . .  |
| "           | 0 11 0   |
| "           | Virginia Halfpenny, <i>proof</i> , and ten other pieces, . . .   |
| "           | 0 10 0   |
| "           | " Massachusetts and Newark Ninepence," and six other pieces, . . .   |
| "           | 0 17 0   |
| "           | Medallion of Gen. Washington, and four others, . . .   |
| Robson.     | 0 3 0  |
| 1840.       | George I., Pence, Halfpence and Farthing of America, Rosa Americana, seven, and ten other pieces, . . .  |
| "           | 1 15 0   |
| "           | George III., Virginia, one, and thirty-three other pieces, . . .   |
| "           | 0 13 0   |
| "           | George Washington, Medal, <i>fine</i> and large size, and two others, . . .  |
| "           | 0 10 0   |
| "           | Virginia Halfpence, and twelve various, . . .  |
| "           | 1 16 0   |
| "           | George I., Penny and Halfpenny. Rosa Americana; another Penny, the head being much larger, <i>in poor condition, but an extremely rare variety</i> , with four other pieces, . . .                       |
| Welling's.  | 1 13 0   |
| 1839.       | George I., Rosa Americana; Virginia Halfpenny, and thirty-nine others various, . . .   |
| "           | 0 7 0  |
| "           | God preserve Carolina, and the Lord's Proprietors, 1694, <i>not fine</i> ; and twenty-two various, . . .   |
| Leybourn's. | 0 11 0   |
| 1838.       | New England, five pieces, and six others various, . . .  |
| "           | 0 13 0   |
| "           | North American Coins, from the Dollar to the smallest Currency, sixteen pieces, . . .  |
|             | 1 2 0  |

|             |   |        |  |
|-------------|---|--------|--|
| Leybourn's. |   |        |  |
| 1838.       | Eagle of North America, . . . . .   | 2 2 0  |  |
| "           | Half Eagle, Quarter, and Eighth, . . . .  | 2 12 0 |  |
| "           | "One North American <i>Two-Dollar</i> Piece," and three South American, . . . . .   | 1 10 0 |  |
| Bentham.    |   |        |  |
| 1838.       | New England Shillings, four; Sixpence; Threepence; and Twopence, 1652. Seven pieces, . . . . .  | 0 16 0 |  |
| "           | Cæcilius, Lord Baltimore's Shilling and Sixpence, . . . . .   | 1 7 0  |  |
| Shepherd.   |   |        |  |
| 1837.       | Virginia Halfpenny, 1773, <i>proof</i> ; Kentucky Halfpenny; and seven various, . . . . .   | 1 1 0  |  |
| "           | North American Double Eagle and Quarter Eagle, . . . . .  | 2 12 0 |  |
| "           | North American Eagle, 1823, <i>fine</i> , . . . . .   | 1 9 0  |  |
| "           | North American Eagle, 1831; Quarter do. 1834, <i>fine</i> , . . . . .   | 1 11 0 |  |
| Phares.     |   |        |  |
| 1834.       | New England Shilling and Sixpence, with N E and value stamped at the edge of the Coins; <i>the last is of extreme rarity</i> , . . . . .  | 0 18 0 |  |
| "           | Massachusetts Shilling, Sixpence, Threepence, and Twopence, . . . . .   | 0 9 0  |  |
| "           | Lord Baltimore's Shilling, Sixpence and Groat, well preserved, <i>the Shilling and Groat very rare</i> , . . . . .  | 2 4 0  |  |
| Edmonds.    |   |        |  |
| 1830.       | Lord Baltimore's Sixpence, rare, . . . . .  | 0 16 0 |  |
| "           | Virginia Halfpenny, <i>proof</i> ; 1773, by PINGO, and five various, . . . . .  | 1 5 0  |  |
| Higgs.      |   |        |  |
| 1830.       | George III., Virginia Halfpenny; a Pattern, by DROZ, 1788; and nineteen other pieces, various, . . . . .  | 1 12 0 |  |
| Rich.       |   |        |  |
| 1828.       | Shilling, stamped on the edge with NE, and XII, <i>said to be the first coin minted in New England; it has much more the appearance of a siege coin of Charles I.</i> , . . . . .                               | 0 10 0 |  |
| "           | Sixpence, type of the last, NE, and VI, <i>extremely rare</i> , . . . . .   | 1 10 0 |  |
| "           | New England Shilling, Sixpence, and Threepence, . . . . .   | 0 8 6  |  |
| "           | Baltimore Shilling, Sixpence, and Groat, . . . . .  | 2 14 0 |  |
| Hollis.     |   |        |  |
| 1817.       | Silver Medals of the American Republic, on establishing their Independence, &c., four, . . . . .  | 3 4 0  |  |
| "           | Five others relating to the same occasion, . . . . .  | 4 6 0  |  |
| "           | New England Shilling and Sixpence, <i>on one side</i> , N. E. <i>on the other</i> , XII, and VI, <i>very rare</i> . Massachusetts Shillings, four; Sixpence, one; Threepences, two; Twopences, three, . . . . . | 3 4 0  |  |
| "           | Lord Baltimore's Shilling, Sixpence, and Groat, . . . . .   | 2 4 0  |  |
| "           | Sommer Island, <i>obverse</i> , a Hog, over it the figure XII; <i>reverse</i> , a Ship. <i>Engraved by Snelling from this piece, considered as unique</i> , . . . . .   | 2 10 0 |  |

Hollis.

1817.

George II., his Head and Titles, reverse, a Leaved Rose, Crowned, *inscribed*, Rosa Americana, 1733, "Utile Dulci," see Snelling's View of Coins struck in our Colonies abroad, &c., Plate 4, No. 28; another of these pieces is in the Collection of Marmaduke Trattle, Esq., which belonged to Mr. Edward Bootle, very fine,

6 6 0

Social Club Medal.

General Washington, Franklin, Linnæus; one on the Liberty of America, 4th July, 1776; and one on the Social Club being instituted in Charles Town, South Carolina, 1763, 8,

Jarvis.  
2 14 0

## THE OLDEN TIME OF LEWIS COUNTY, [NEW YORK.]

BY CALEB LYON, OF LYONSDALE.

In the land of vines and olives, over three score years ago,  
Where the Bourbon Rulers perished in unutterable wo,  
Plans matured for emigration sanctioned were with revel gay,  
In saloons of *la belle Paris*, by the friends of Chassenais.

On a hundred thousand acres, never trod by feet of men,  
He had mapped out farms and vineyards, roads o'er precipice and glen,  
And, like scenes of an enchanter, rose a city wondrous fair,  
With its colleges and churches, and its castles in the air.

Then was struck a classic medal by this visionary band :  
Cybele was on the silver, and beneath was "Castorland,"  
The reverse a tree of maple, yielding forth its precious store,  
*Salve magna parens frugum* was the legend that it bore.

O'er the Atlantic, up the Hudson, up the Mohawk's dreary wild,  
With his flock came Bishop Julien, ever gentle as a child ;  
His kind words dispelled their sorrows and their trials by the way,  
As the darkness of the morning fades before the god of day.

By *la Riviere de la Famine*, ocean-tired and travel-sore—  
They up-reared a rustic altar, tapestried with mosses o'er ;  
Crucifix they set upon it where the oak tree's shadow fell  
Lightly o'er the lighted tapers, 'mid the sweet *Te Deum*'s swell.

Never *Dominus Vobiscum*, falling upon human ears,  
Made so many heart-strings quiver, fill'd so many eyes with tears.  
The Good Shepherd gave his blessing—even red men gathered there,  
Felt the sacrifice of Jesus in his first thanksgiving prayer.

After toils and many troubles, self-exile for many years,  
Long delays and sad misfortunes, men's regrets and women's tears,  
Unfulfilled the brilliant outset, broken as a chain of sand,  
Were the golden expectations by *Grande Rapides*' promised land.

Few among this generation little cared how lived or died  
Those who fled from Revolution, spirits true and spirits tried ;  
Or of loves and lives all ended, orbs of hope forever set—  
These the poet and the painter cannot let the world forget.

## PINE TREE MONEY.

THE following extracts are found in the Massachusetts Historical Collections, (vol. ii, p. 276, second series,) and show that American coinage began to attract attention more than a hundred years ago.

"Extracts from a letter of Thomas Hollis, Esquire, to Rev. Andrew Eliot, D. D., and from the answer.

Explanation of plate xxx. New England\* SIXPENCE, No. 5, N. E., stamped on a piece of plate. *Reverse*, vi.

Shilling, No. 10, MASATHVSETS in Pourtraiure of the good Samaritan. Over it FAC SIMILE. No *Reverse*.

Peny, No. 14, . . . SATHVS . . . A pine. *Reverse*, . . . GLA . . . In the area, 1652. Below the date, i.

If the sixpence, No. 5, and shilling, No. 10, and peny, No. 14, [and the half-peny, if stricken,] can be procured for T. H. in fair, unrubbed, uncleansed condition, he will be glad of them at any price.

Pray forgive the liberty and trouble of this commission.

*Palmar, 18 Dec. 1767.*

Boston, 18 April, 1767.

Sir,

\* \* \* \* \*

I am extremely sorry that I am not able at present to gratify you with respect to the New England coin. \*

The portraiture of the good Samaritan no one among us ever heard of. I am persuaded it was not a current coin; but a medal struck on some particular occasion.

I have all the other New England coins. The small ones are scarce, but I have several very well preserved; and they are entirely at your service."

The design of the so-called "Good Samaritan" piece was undoubtedly the work of some English Apothecary, who without any special object in view, stamped the piece with his trade-mark. It is figured in Felt's Account of Massachusetts Currency, (plate p. 38,) as well as the fabulous Pine-tree penny, which is alluded to by Mr. Hollis.

S. A. G.

## THE COFFIN MEDAL.

SOME few years since, Sir Isaac Coffin, Bart., had a medal struck in commemoration of his ancestor, Trist[r]am Coffin; which with his accustomed liberality he presented to all the male descendants of the name. It bore on one side a full length figure of their ancestor in the Spanish costume, with this inscription, "Trist[r]am Coffin, the first of the race that settled in America, 1642"; and on the reverse were four hands joined—"Do honor to his name."—"Be united." Thacher's *American Medical Biography*, Boston, 1828, vol. i., p. 229. *Note.*

\* See 'Tables of English silver and gold coins. First published by Martin Folkes, Esq., and now reprinted with plates and explanations by the Society of Antiquaries.' Printed, London, 1763, in 2 vol. quarto, p. 91. T. H. had the honor to present a copy of the above work to the Public Library of Harvard College."

### THE COINAGE OF VERMONT.

HAVING been favored with a perusal of the carefully prepared paper of the Rev. Edmund F. Slaster upon the above mentioned subject, which is soon to appear in the volume of Collections of the Vermont Historical Society now in press, we think a brief notice of one portion of it will be found of interest to our readers. The article treats of the regular issues of the Vermont mint with much fullness, setting out *in extenso* the legislation and contracts in relation thereto, with such additional information as is attainable from all sources of authority.

The portion of the paper which will have most interest for numismatic inquirers, however, relates to certain coins not authorized by law, but commonly ascribed to Vermont, by collectors and compilers of catalogues, and remarkable for bearing some of the devices of the copper currency of Great Britain. They may be divided, by their legends, into three classes, viz. 1. VERMON. AUCTORI, reverse, BRITANNIA: 2. GEORGII III REX, rev. INDE. ET LIB. or IMMUNE COLUMBIA, or BRITANNIA: 3. GLORIOUS (?) III Vts. (?), rev. BRITT. (?)

With regard to them all, it may be stated that they were sanctioned by no law; that Harmon, the contractor with Vermont for the production of her coinage, would have rendered himself liable to the forfeiture of heavy bonds if he had manufactured these illegitimate pieces in the State; and that there is apparently no tradition or suspicion that any of them emanated from the regular mint at Rupert.

It is charged, however, that some of these coins were emitted during certain negotiations between agents of Great Britain and leading citizens of Vermont, with reference to the annexation of that province to the British dominions. But (to say nothing of the absurdity of the idea that a pending treaty would be signalized by the issue of a copper currency!) the negotiations alluded to, arose out of, and terminated with the existence of the revolutionary war; while there is no pretence that any part of the hybrid coinage came into being before 1785, two years after the declaration of peace.

Moreover there is no evidence to connect the 2d class of these coins, (GEORGII III REX, with various reverses,) with Vermont, except a supposed resemblance in point of style and execution, to the legalized coinage; and as coarse workmanship and want of originality of design were by no means peculiar to the Green Mountain State, this can hardly be deemed conclusive.

The 3d class of these coins is included, by Sandham, in his treatise on the Coins of Canada, among those whose origin is "Doubtful." He reads the legend "GEORICUS III Vis.", and is probably correct in so doing. Good specimens are seldom, if ever, to be found. We have never seen one which presented any trace of the arms of the letter T in the last word, nor which had a space between the V and S, wide enough to admit a T. Add to this the fact that Vts. was never used as a contraction for Vermont; and apparently this ungracious copper must seek its parentage elsewhere. In all probability it is simply a witless caricature, of Canadian origin, and dating from the early quarter of the present century.

But where and by whom *were* the mongrel, British-American coppers, constituting the 1st and 2d classes, manufactured? This is a question easier

to ask than to answer, in the present state of our knowledge. But conjecture may be hazarded, and our readers can form their own judgment of the probability of its correctness.

In 1787, Harmon, the Vermont mint-contractor, formed a partnership with Capt. Machin and several others, for carrying on the business of coining money in the County of Ulster, New York. It seems that they accomplished but little, however, for they only minted about one thousand pounds' weight of copper. What kind of coins were struck there, there is no information. It was a private establishment, having no connection, so far as is known, with any State coinage. Though it has been styled a "branch of the Vermont mint," yet there is no evidence that it was so; but on the contrary, the establishment at Rupert, capable of striking thirty coins per minute, was amply sufficient for the regular service, and does not appear to have been discontinued.

It is understood that the State coinage had, at that time, little currency in Canada; but if copper could be coined which would pass readily there, it would undoubtedly yield a handsome profit. The most obvious method to accomplish this, was to imitate the design of the British half pence. To counterfeit them would involve no risk to the *coiner*, if he did it upon foreign soil; but the person who knowingly *uttered* them within the British dominions, would be held liable to a severe penalty. Might it not have occurred to the Ulster County coiners, that if they were to *mule* their coinage between British and American devices, it would pass currently enough in Canada, and still not subject the utterer to criminal prosecution?

However this might have been, the conjecture is, that the mint in Ulster was responsible for the copper coinage which has been so commonly attributed to Vermont.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

### BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

*July 7.*—A monthly meeting was held this day at 4, P. M. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. Mr. Crosby presented, in behalf of Mr. Isaac F. Wood, a medal of Haverford College, and another of the Norwalk Memorial, with the head of Washington; Mr. Wiggin presented, in behalf of Rev. H. M. Dexter, a Pilgrim Jubilee Medal of 1870; for both of these a vote of thanks was passed. Mr. Davenport exhibited a number of beautiful bronze medals, lately brought by him from Berlin, Prussia; among them were medals of Humboldt, Schiller, Goethe, Thorwaldsen, the King and Queen of Prussia, and the monument to Frederick the Great, at Berlin. They were much admired for the beauty of the designs, and the perfection of the execution.

This meeting was principally devoted to an exhibition of United States coins and pattern-pieces of 1785-6-7, to which three gentlemen particularly contributed. Mr. Crosby exhibited thirty-one varieties of the Fugio cent of 1787, one of the most remarkable having the word UNITED above the word STATES; several varieties of the NOVA CONSTELLATIO, the IMMUNE COLUMBIA

with the head of George III., and other pieces. Mr. Seavey exhibited several pieces, including the IMMUNIS COLUMBIA with obverses of the eagle and the U. S. shield, the IMMUNE COLUMBIA with obverses NOVA CONSTELLATIO and head of George III., and four different specimens of the very rare CONFEDERATIO, 1785, two with the obverse of a standing female and inscription INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA, and two joined with a die of a badly-designed eagle and inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM, 1787. The Secretary exhibited several pieces, including the very rare NOVA CONSTELLATIO of 1786, the IMMUNIS COLUMBIA with obverses of the eagle and U. S. shield, the IMMUNE COLUMBIA with obverses of George III. and NOVA CONSTELLATIO in copper and silver, one CONFEDERATIO with obverse INIMICA TYRANNIS AMERICANA, and another with obverse of the head of Washington, and inscription GEN. WASHINGTON, and a piece of the FUGIO type without lettering, but with the names of the States on the rings, and in the centre the words AMERICAN CONGRESS. Some of these pieces exhibited are among the rarest of the American series, and they were proportionately admired.

The Society adjourned at 5 1-4, P. M.

W. S. APPLETON, Sec.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

[Continued from Vol. 5, page 7.]

### COPPER COINAGE.

*Communicated to the House of Representatives, April 15, 1790.*

THE Secretary of State, to whom was referred, by the House of Representatives, the letter of John H. Mitchell, reciting certain proposals for supplying the United States with copper coinage, has had the same under consideration, according to instructions, and begs leave to report thereon as follows:

The person who wishes to undertake the supply of a copper coinage, sets forth, that the superiority of his apparatus and process for coining, enables him to furnish a coinage better and cheaper than can be done by any country or person whatever; that his dies are engraved by the first artist in that line in Europe; that his apparatus for striking the edge at the same blow, with the faces, is new, and singularly ingenious; that he coins by a press on a new principle, and worked by a fire engine, more regularly than can be done by hand; that he will deliver any quantity of coin, of any size and device, of pure, unalloyed copper, wrapped in paper and packed in casks, ready for shipping, for fourteen pence sterling the pound.

The Secretary of State has before been apprised, from other sources of information, of the great improvements made by this undertaker, in sundry arts; he is acquainted with the artist who invented the method of striking the edge and both faces of the coin at one blow; he has seen his process and coins, and sent to the former Congress some specimens of them, with certain offers from him, before he entered into the service of the present undertaker, (which specimens he takes the liberty of now submitting to the inspection of

the House, as proofs of the superiority of this method of coinage, in gold and silver as well as copper.)

He is therefore of opinion, that the undertaker, aided by the artist, and by his own excellent machines, is truly in a condition to furnish a coin in a state of higher perfection than has ever yet been issued by any nation; that perfection in the engraving is among the greatest safeguards against counterfeits, because engravers of the first class are few, and elevated by their rank in their art far above the base and dangerous business of counterfeiting. That the perfection of coins will indeed disappear after they are for some time worn among other pieces, and especially where the figures are rather faintly relieved, as on those of this artist; yet, their high finishing while new, is not the less a guard against counterfeits, because these, if carried to any extent, may be ushered into circulation new also, and consequently may be compared with genuine coins in the same state; that, therefore, whenever the United States shall be disposed to have a coin of their own, it will be desirable to aim at this kind of perfection. That this cannot be better effected, than by availing themselves, if possible, of the services of the undertaker, and of this artist, whose excellent methods and machines are said to have abridged, as well as perfected, the operations of coinage. These operations, however, and their expense, being new, and unknown here, he is unable to say whether the price proposed be reasonable or not. He is also uncertain, whether, instead of the larger copper coin, the Legislature might not prefer a lighter one of billon, or mixed metal, as is practiced, with convenience, by several other nations—a specimen of which kind of coinage is submitted for their inspection.

But, the propositions under consideration suppose that the work is to be carried on in a foreign country, and that the implements are to remain the property of the undertaker; which conditions, in his opinion, render them inadmissible, for these reasons:

Coinage is peculiarly an attribute of sovereignty. To transfer its exercise into another country, is to submit it to another sovereign.

Its transportation across the ocean, besides the ordinary dangers of the sea, would expose it to acts of piracy, by the crews to whom it would be confided, as well as by others apprised of its passage.

In time of war, it would offer to the enterprises of an enemy, what have been emphatically called the sinews of war.

If the war were with the nation within whose territory the coinage is, the first act of war, or reprisal, might be to arrest this operation, with the implements, and materials coined and uncoined, to be used at discretion.

The reputation and principles of the present undertaker are safeguards against the abuses of a coinage, carried on in a foreign country, where no checks could be provided by the proper sovereign, no regulations established, no police, no guard exercised; in short, none of the numerous cautions hitherto thought essential at every mint; but in hands less entitled to confidence, these would become dangers. We may be secured, indeed, by proper experiments as to the purity of the coin delivered us according to contract, but we cannot be secured against that which, though less pure, shall be struck in the genuine die, and protected against the vigilance of Government, till it shall have entered into circulation.

We lose the opportunity of calling in and re-coining the clipped money in circulation, or we double our risk by a double transportation.

We lose, in like manner, the resources of coining up our household plate in the instant of great distress. We lose the means of forming artists to continue the works, when the common accidents of mortality shall have deprived us of those who began them. In fine, the carrying on a coinage in a foreign country, as far as the Secretary knows, is without example; and general example is weighty authority.

He is, therefore, of opinion, on the whole, that a mint, whenever established, should be established at home; that the superiority, the merit, and means of the undertaker, will suggest him as the proper person to be engaged in the establishment and conduct of a mint, on a scale which, relinquishing nothing in the perfection of the coin, shall be duly proportioned to our purposes.

And, in the mean while, he is of opinion the present proposals should be declined.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

April 14th, 1790.

#### AN ANCIENT ROMAN COIN.

A MASSY lump of brass and bronze,  
Moulded by ponderous blow on blow,  
For Nero or Vespasian's son,  
In ages dim and long ago.

A cruel mouth, a swinish chin,  
A wolfish eye, almost erased :  
But half the type—a victory—  
Two words, and those almost defaced.

Where is the golden palace now  
That on the Palatine arose ?  
Where are the statue-guarded doors ?  
Where are the temple porticos ?

For discs of metal shaped like this,  
Swords have been drawn and Lethe crossed ;  
For this, in greedy hope, men's souls  
Have been by passions tempest tossed.

This is Ambition's royal meed ;  
This is a buried Cæsar's fame ;  
Upon a lump of rusty bronze  
The two-thirds of a doubtful name.

I fancy, says Cynthio, posterity would be as much puzzled on the religion of *Louis le Grand*, were they to learn it from his Medals, as we are at present on that of *Constantine the Great*. It is certain, says Philander, there is the same mixture of Christian and Pagan in their Coins, nor is there a less confusion in their customs. For example, what relation is there between the figure of a Bull, and the planting of a French colony in *America*? The Romans made use of this type in allusion to one of their own customs at the sending out of a colony. But for the French, a Ram, a Hog, or an Elephant, would have been every whit as significant an emblem.—*Works of Joseph Addison*, London, 1721, vol. I., p. 537.

## QUERY.

Have any of our readers met with a description of the following coin, mentioned by Henry William Henfrey, in his recent work entitled "A Guide to the Study and Arrangement of English Coins, etc.,"—lately published in London.

## RIVAL OF ELIZABETH.

*Obv.* ELIZAB. D. G. AVG. FR. Z. M. PR. C. A. I. REGINA. (that is, Elizabetha Dei Gratia Angliae, Franciae Et Magnae Provinciae Captae Avspiciis Illivs, Regina,) referring to the taking of Virginia by Sir Walter Raleigh, 1584.

The translation of the legend is as follows:—Elizabeth by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and the great province captured under her auspices.

## THE LARGEST GOLD COIN EVER STRUCK.

*Obverse*, Heads of Ferdinand and Elizabeth, King and Queen of Castile, heads crowned, face to face; "XXXXX" for 50 Ducats; below, "REX." *Rev.* their arms with their titles around. Weight, 5 oz. 11 dwt.

MORE than twelve years ago we commenced our transactions in Coins and Medals with Mr. Edward Cogan, and never during that time have we ever, for a moment, had the slightest feeling of distrust in regard to his representations; he has always been just, truthful and faithful to our interests. We wish him all success, and the owner of a magnificent collection of Medals and Coins.

August, 1870.

J. C.

## FALSE COINS, IN BASE METAL.

THE following, from an English Coin Sale Catalogue, (Welling's, 1839,) is well worthy of attention by those making Catalogues this side of the water.

\*\* The following eight lots, are part and parcel of a vast quantity which have been cast, some from originals, others made up from *ideal coins*, and which have been hawked through the country, by an individual, now well known, whose sanctified appearance, and deceptive demeanor, has but too well enabled him to succeed in disposing of them as genuine, and by so doing injure the Science of Numismatics, and defraud the unwary.

They were mostly English Coins from King John to Charles I.

## STARS IN FLAGS AND COINS.

IN English heraldic language, the star has six points; in the Heraldry of Holland, France and Germany, the star is five-pointed.

The medal, faithful to its charge of fame,  
Thro' climes and ages bears each form and name:  
In one short view, subjected to our eye,  
Gods, emp'rors, heroes, sages, beauties lie.—*Pope*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

WE divide mankind into two classes, viz.: those who subscribe for the *Journal* and those who do not. At the present time the non-subscribers are in the majority, though we hope to reduce the number. Our aim constantly will be to equalize the two classes, and to bring them into closer relations with each other. With this end in view we print the following letter, without the name or consent of the writer. If all our subscribers should do likewise, it would double our subscription list. This statement can easily be proved by figures, if it should be doubted.

AUGUST 5th, 1870.

*Editors of the Journal:*

Your favor of July 11th was received by due course of mail. I was absent at the time of the receipt, and the letter was mislaid, which is my apology for not answering. I have quite a number of calls of this and similar kinds, and only wish I was able to do a good deal more than I do. I am willing, however, to double my subscription for the present year, if that will do any good, and herewith enclose *two dollars* for that purpose, trusting that others may be induced to do better.

I remain, Yours, very respectfully,

B.

*Editors of Journal of Numismatics:*

"The American Antiquarian: A Quarterly Journal devoted to the interests of Collectors of Autographs, Paper Money, Portraits, &c." A Journal of which the above is the heading, has just been issued by C. De F. Burns, in New York City. The undertaking is a meritorious one, but cannot the various interests of the Collectors named be better served by having but one medium embracing the above with Numismatics and Archaeology?

Here, in New England, almost all of our prominent Numismatists are collectors of the objects named in the above announcement. As no Journal of this character is expected to make money, it would seem, if the various collectors were to contribute to one head, a much better medium could be afforded to the admirers of each pursuit.

COLLECTOR.

August, 1870.

## EDITORIAL.

WE have received the first number of *The American Antiquarian*, a quarterly journal published in New York by Charles De F. Burns. It is devoted to the interests of collectors of autographs, paper money, portraits, &c. It contains an interesting article on the Paper Currency of New Hampshire. Subscriptions, one dollar *per annum*.

MR. MUNSELL, of Albany, N. Y., has issued proposals to publish a volume with the title of "The Castorland Journal," embracing incidents of travel and facts concerning the French settlement in "Castorland," on the Black River, in Lewis and Jefferson Counties, N. Y., in 1793-96. By Franklin B. Hough. This is the company for whom was struck what is now well known as the "Castorland Medal."

MR. S. S. CROSBY, of this city, is preparing a work on the early silver coinage of Massachusetts, at the request of the New England Numismatic and Archaeological Society. He has identified about forty different varieties of the Pine-tree shilling, and has an ingenious theory in regard to their issue in point of time. Mr. Crosby is well known to the readers of the *Journal* as an accurate numismatic scholar.

THE Rev. Henry Baylies, of Davenport, Iowa, has the original copper plate from which the £4 Bill of the Colony of Rhode Island was struck, March 18, 1750. Collectors by sending an equivalent, can obtain a specimen in exchange; this is, however, an unauthorized statement, but our belief.

IN January, 1869, a pretended discovery of Relics, a Statue in Copper and an Obelisk of Brass, was published in the Rock Island (Ill.) Argus, as having just been discovered in a cave on Rock

Island. It was, we suppose, got up for the purpose of "Hoaxing" the public. Such things are, possibly, allowable on the First of April, but then we think it a waste of paper and ink.

OUR readers may remember an article which appeared in most of our newspapers in July, 1867, giving an account of a pretended "Runic Discovery on the Potomac," near Georgetown, D. C. It was the production of some villainous fellow who designed afterwards to laugh it off as a "hoax." Articles of this character have often appeared in our Journals, and it is quite time that the authors should be publicly exposed.

AMONG the trophies brought home by Lieut. Quayle, of the Royal Artillery, from the English Abyssinian expedition, is an ancient sceptre of brass, upon one side of which is carved a rude representation of the crucifixion, and on the reverse that of the crowning with thorns.

*Wants.*—A Collector friend of ours wishes to purchase a Five dollar piece of 1798, *Small Eagle*; also the Five dollar piece of 1822. Any one having those specimens to dispose of, will please send us the price and condition of the pieces.

J. C.

JAMES THOMPSON HARROWER, of Quebec, is the owner of the sword which General Montgomery wore at the time of his death. Mr. James Thompson, overseer of Public Works in the Royal Engineer Department at Quebec, who was, in his official capacity, present when the body of General Montgomery was discovered at Pries-de-Ville, near Quebec, soon after the action on the night of the 31st of December, 1775, became the possessor of the sword; at his decease he bequeathed it to his son James, who died not long since, at Quebec, leaving the sword to his nephew, its present owner.

A POETICAL quotation from Pope, in this number of the *Journal*, reminds us of the *Dialogues upon the Usefulness of Ancient Medals*, of Joseph Addison, which gave the occasion for writing the poem from which the extract is taken. These *Dialogues* were written more than a hundred and fifty years ago, and contain many curious facts stated in a quaint way. It will well repay our readers to cast a glance at them.

A COURSE of Lectures on History and General Policy, was prepared in 1761, by Joseph Priestley, LL. D., which have been republished several times, both in this country and England. The sixth lecture in the series treats of coins and medals; their origin and use in history; the principal information to be derived from them; the progress of letters traced by their means; Addison's use of medals; ancient and modern coins compared, with a view both to history and taste.

#### ODD CHANGE.

THERE is a valuable collection of coins and medals belonging to Brown University, which is used in illustrating the recitations and lectures on Ancient History.

"METHUSALEH," the largest of a new grove of big trees recently explored in Toulumne county, Cal., is 84 feet in circumference at the roots.

"KNOTT A. REDD," is a correspondent of a Southern paper.

THE only "Liberty Cap," says a witty author, "is a night-cap."

Lawrence Academy, at Groton, Mass., has a collection of medals, which was given more than twenty years ago, by the late Amos Lawrence, of this city.

A rare combination—Dollars and sense.

In the Second Volume of "American Historical and Literary Curiosities,"—by Smith & Watson, Philadelphia, 1847—is a fac-simile of the Massachusetts Paper Money of 1702 and 1775. The same is also to be found in "An Historical Account of Massachusetts Currency," J. B. Felt, Boston, 1839.

IN Lossing's "Field Book of the Revolution," Vol. 1, pp. 317, 318, are fac-similes of Continental Money, and on page 452, the Massachusetts Bill of 1690.

THE best account of the "Early Paper Currency of Massachusetts," is by Nathaniel Paine, Esq., which is to be found in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for March 16, 1866.

The first deposit of California Gold Dust at the United States Mint, was on the 8th of December, 1848.

IN a volume entitled "Boston Notions," published by Nathaniel Dearborn, Boston, 1848, is a fac-simile of the bill for 20 shillings, issued by the Colony of Massachusetts in 1690.

Old coins are the Autographs of the Ancients.—*L. J. Cist.*